

CIRCUITS AND METHODS TO PROTECT A GATE DIELECTRIC ANTIFUSE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

According to embodiments of the present invention, an antifuse circuit is operated
5 by coupling an elevated voltage to a first terminal of an antifuse, controlling current in the
antifuse with a program driver circuit coupled to a second terminal of the antifuse, and
shunting current around the antifuse with a bypass circuit coupled between the first
terminal of the antifuse and the program driver circuit to protect the antifuse. The
antifuse includes a layer of gate dielectric between the first terminal and the second
10 terminal. The embodiments of the present invention protect a gate dielectric antifuse.

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